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STATISTICAL COMMISSION and ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

Forty-second plenary session
(Paris, 13-17 June 1994)

**STATISTICS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Note prepared by the secretariat

1. The Joint ECE/CEC Work Session of Environmental Protection Expenditures and Facilities was held in Geneva, from 23 to 25 March 1994. It was attended by participants from the following countries: Canada; Croatia; Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia; Finland; France; Germany; Hungary; Italy; Lithuania; Netherlands; Poland; Romania; Russian Federation; Slovak Republic; Slovenia; Sweden; The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; United Kingdom.

2. The meeting was chaired by Mr. C. Costantino (Italy).

3. The Joint Work Session recommended the Single European Standard Statistical Classification of Environmental Protection Activities and Facilities for adoption by the Conference of European Statisticians at its 1994 plenary session. The text of the recommended classification is included in document CES/822. The relevant other conclusions adopted by the Work Session at its closing session are annexed to this note.

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ANNEX

**Conclusions reached at the Joint ECE/CEC Work Session on Statistics of Environmental Protection Expenditures and Facilities**

(Geneva, 23-25 March 1994)

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Joint Work Session considered the following substantive items on its agenda:

- Proposals for the merging of the existing draft ECE classification with the apparent results of the work done by EUROSTAT on SERIEE (European System for the Collection of Economic Data on the Environment); and

- consideration of a Single European Standard International Classification of Environmental Protection Activities and Facilities

The discussion was based on Working Papers No. 1 and No.2, which had been jointly prepared by EUROSTAT and the ECE secretariat. It produced exchanges on selected fundamental questions of how to design the classification under study, also to specific proposals modifying the detailed suggestions for the classification as contained in Working Paper No. 2.

## II. SOME FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES

2. The proposals contained in the draft classification that had been submitted to the meeting for consideration aim at specifying environmental activities by environmental media and/or institutional sector to which the activities are related. Thus, they do not start from a list of environmental concerns, which might require the compilation of expenditure data across several media or sectors. It was noted that the current consideration of environmental management issues develops increasingly around integrated problems or themes. Correspondingly, new information needs are being generated, which are not fully reflected in an activity breakdown based on environmental media alone.

3. The Work Session felt that it would be premature to guide the development of the classification by this newly emerging trend for environmental studies and management. Currently, the problems associated with matching expenditures undertaken by different economic units and sectors with environmental themes cutting across institutional boundaries were considered forbidding, although attempts should be made to link expenditure data to environmental themes through e.g., cross-tabulations. However, if progress is made on this question, possibly through ongoing work on environmental indicators or on environmental accounting, the question ought to be reconsidered.

4. The risk of not being able to determine the part devoted to environmental protection in expenditures serving several purposes at the same time - or of breaking totals down by several relevant protection activities - was mentioned as another basic problem for the development of the classification. Here, remedies could perhaps be found through a convenient specification of totals or sub-totals. They could ensure the provision of reliable data for combined categories of relevant activities, when full detail cannot be given. However, a truly satisfactory solution to this problem is generally not yet in sight.

5. An important issue in collecting and compiling expenditure statistics on environmental protection activities relates to the risk of double counting. The Work Session agreed first of all that suitable procedures are required that avoid double counting to the maximum possible extent. Furthermore, it was also agreed that the Single Classification should result in the collection of identical data, if used by different institutions. Consequently, the Work Session suggested adopting the procedures to be developed in the context of SERIEE for use together with the present classification. It was recognized that this decision would not enable the specification of all such rules at the present time, as the SERIEE procedures are not yet determined in detail.

6. The relationships between Parts I and II of the classification were clarified in discussion. It was noted that the Part II responds to data requirements that have appeared in international data work (particularly in the framework of the International Environmental Data Service (IEDS) of the UN Economic Commission for Europe) independently of the needs for expenditure data. Thus, from this point of view, the two parts of the classification are unrelated, Part I being clearly more comprehensive in coverage than Part II. They are nevertheless maintained in the same classification for essentially two reasons. Firstly, a number of terms used overlap, so that the definitions are to be developed in close coordination anyhow. Secondly, depending on the project at hand, expenditure data can also be needed in terms of protection facilities, and not exclusively in terms of protective activities.

7. Further broad problems of delineating the scope of the classification relate to expenditure categories that, while in themselves important, would only belong to the wider surroundings of environmental protection proper, such as the preservation of the environmental resource base of a country, repair of damages caused by environmental nuisances, health-related expenditures like the cleaning of drinking-water, or clean technologies as separate protection facilities in Part II. These and similar categories are not covered by the present classification, for reasons of either conceptual stringency or the importance of data reliability. The same is true for environmental protection activities in the workplace. Protection activities at nuclear power stations and of military forces against radiation are also excluded, but here the reason is in the current difficulties concerned with confining data coverage to such items that would provide reliable data that are conceptually harmonized with other protection activities.

## III. SPECIFIC ISSUES OF THE CLASSIFICATION

(a) Introduction of the classification

8. The treatment of recycling, the conventions needed to avoid double counting in its various forms, and the scope of the future work recommended in the text of the introduction constituted the main items for consideration. The results of the meeting's discussion of these issues are incorporated in the recommended Single Classification as included in document CES/822.

(b) Categories of the classification

9. The following specific issues were discussed in detail:

- Relationship between the protection of ambient air, climate and the ozone layer
- The optimal separation - or combination - of surface water, groundwater and soil protection in the classification
- The coverage of recycling
- The product vs. activity orientation of categories shown under waste management
- The inclusion or exclusion of the protection of forest as a separate 2-digit category
- The need to maintain a separate 1-digit category for the protection against natural hazards
- The optimal allocation of categories of research and development
- The coverage of protection activities against radiation and the level of the classification at which to include such activities
- The optimal treatment of education, training and information activities for environmental protection
- The need to specify a category that would receive all those expenditures that cannot be subdivided according to the specific categories of the classification ('indivisible expenditures')
- The need to maintain a recommendation regarding the type of data that appear to be sufficient for international data collection with the help of the present classification

The results of the meeting's discussion of these issues are incorporated in the recommended Single Classification as included in document CES/822.

(c) Definitions and concepts

10. Discussion focused on the following issues and items:

- Development of the definitions that had to be newly introduced in the light of the modifications brought to the categories of the classification
- Identification of SNA references to definitions adapted or reproduced from SNA
- Discussion and amendment of the following definitions: Characteristic environmental protection activity; collection and transport of waste; decontamination of soils; environmental protection; facilities for

environmental protection; final consumption; landfill (site); noise and vibration abatement; other treatment/disposal method; protection against radiation; recycling of waste; restoration and cleaning of water bodies; treatment of cooling water; treatment of other than hazardous waste.

The results of the meeting's discussion of these issues are incorporated in the recommended Single Classification as included in document CES/822.

## IV. FURTHER WORK

11. The Joint Work Session recommended to the Conference of European Statisticians to approve the text of the classification as shown in document CES/822 as the "Single European Standard Statistical Classification of Environmental Protection Activities and Facilities".

12. The Single European Classification will be included in the SERIEE Manual. Publication of the Manual is envisaged in September 1994. The use of the classification during the implementation of SERIEE will provide insight into its applicability. Any appearing borderline cases or data insufficiencies will give rise to further recommendations. Furthermore, the application of the classification will be an input into various aspects of the ongoing work undertaken by EUROSTAT in the field of economic statistics of the environment as a whole.

13. The discussion in the course of the meeting generated two further types of recommendations. First, the Joint Work Session suggested that work on environmental indicators at the international level should both provide further clarification of various issues involved in the development of the present classification and use the Single Classification as input. Secondly, the Joint Work Session proposed to address the following items in methodological discussion at a suitable future date:

(1) Linkages between SERIEE and SEEA (System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting)

(2) Possibilities to compile data from existing economic databases in accordance with the Single European Classification

14. As a result, the Work Session did not propose any modification of activities pursued or meetings to be convened by the Conference of European Statisticians on environmental protection activities and facilities.

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**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

Forty-second plenary session
(Paris, 13-17 June 1994)

## REVIEW OF ECE STATISTICAL PUBLICATIONS

Note prepared by the secretariat

1. At the forty-first plenary session of the Conference in 1993, a detailed report (ECE/CES/41) was presented to the meeting concerning the action taken by the Bureau and the secretariat following the review of ECE's publications. Since then two further progress reports have been prepared and discussed by the Bureau at their October and February meetings. To inform the Conference of the action undertaken since last year, the Bureau asked the secretariat to prepare the current summary as well as the table of the approved changes which have been or will be implemented for each of the publications reviewed by the Working Group in 1992.

### RESULTS OF THE DETAILED INTRA-SECRETARIAT REVIEW

2. Given the lack of specific recommendations in the report of the Working Group, the Bureau of the Conference asked the secretariat to make a detailed study of existing publications and to formulate recommendations concerning the discontinuation of publications of low interest and where needed to suggest improvements to the format and substance of the remaining statistical publications. This detailed intra-secretariat review programme began in March 1993 and has covered all the nine subject matter areas and all the statistical publications included in the original report of the Working Group. For each of the following subject matters: Agriculture, Forestry, Energy, Transport, Social Statistics, Environment, Steel, Engineering and Chemical statistics a comprehensive study of ECE's publications was made. The studies then served

as discussion documents for the consultations the Statistical Division had with the subject matter divisions about how the bulletins could be improved within the secretariat's current resources and means. Where necessary, the resulting proposals were presented to the various PSBs (Principal Subsidiary Bodies of the ECE, of which the Conference is one) for approval before implementation.

3. A summary of the changes which have or will be undertaken are presented in tabular form in an annex to this paper. The 40 publications which were reviewed by the Working Group vary considerably in frequency and nature. While the large majority of them are published annually, some ten appear much more infrequently at five-yearly, four-yearly and two-yearly intervals. Two of the publications were in fact one-time studies and two others are published on an ad hoc basis. Although the review was limited to ECE statistical publications, close to half of the reviewed publications could arguably be described as analytical studies as well, since their textual parts are equal or larger than their statistical parts. Finally, the publications differ notably in length from some 50 pages to 550 pages.

**CONCLUSIONS**

4. As result of the review ECE statistical publications programme has undergone a number of significant changes. Seven publications have already been terminated and one more may be cancelled (see attached table). Furthermore, the overhaul of the individual bulletins has lead to the eliminations of many tables while others have been condensed or improved in various ways. However, the resulting reduction in pages have often been compensated by the introduction of analytical texts and summary tables into several of the bulletins. In a few cases, it has not been possible to implement all the recommended changes immediately, due to two other ongoing trends in the ECE: questionnaire harmonisation with other international organisations and changes in the technology used for producing ECE's publications. Hence, a two stage approach has sometimes had to be adopted.

5. Decision 0(45) of the Economic Commission of Europe asked the Conference of European Statisticians to <u>periodically</u> review the statistical publications. The Conference, therefore, may want to return to this topic in a couple of years and assess the effect of the first review. In the meanwhile, the Conference may wish to ask the secretariat of the ECE together with other international organisations which publish statistics in similar fields, to consider how they can develop greater collaboration in the area of dissemination of statistical information. During this review, account was taken of the publications of other international institutions, and the ECE Statistical Division is now planning joint publications in some areas of statistics.

**Publications Evaluated and Changes Implemented**

| Title of evaluated publication in 1992 | Changes | Year of change | Symbol |
|---|---|---|---|
| **ENERGY** | | | |
| Annual Bulletin of General Energy Statistics for Europe Vol.XXI-1988 | Discontinued | 1993 | E/F/R.93. II.E.13 (Last issue) |
| Annual Bulletin of Electric Energy Statistics for Europe Vol.XXXV-1990 | Contents reviewed. Textual analysis included. Summary tables with key indicators introduced. Improved coverage of heat production and distribution.Timeliness to be improved through mini-questionnaire. | 1994 | Still to be published |
| Annual Bulletin of Gas Statistics for Europe Vol.XXXV-1991 | Contents reviewed. Textual analysis included. Summary tables with key indicators introduced. Improved table presentation.Timeliness improved through mini-questionnaire. | 1994 | Still to be published |
| Annual Bulletin of Coal Statistics for Europe Vol.XXIV-1991 | Contents reviewed. Textual analysis included. Summary tables with key indicators introduced. Timeliness improved through the use of forecaste data from other questionnaires. | 1994 | Still to be published |
| Energy Balances for Europe and North America 1970-2000. | Ad hoc publication. Future editions will also contain historical energy balances compiled in-house. | Ad hoc | |

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|---|---|---|---|
| Energy reforms in Central and Eastern Europe - The First Year- ECE Energy Series No. 7 | One-time study. | Ad hoc | |
| **TRANSPORT** | | | |
| Annual Bulletin of Transport Statistics. Vol XLI -1991 | Contents reviewed. Considerable reduction of tables in section of general statistics. Elimination of data series with poor response. Improved table presentation. Changes in the published data according to new joint transport questionnaire under preparation. | 1995 | To be published in 1995 |
| Statistics on Road Traffic Accidents in Europe Vol. XXXVI -1991 | Contents reviewed. Elimination of some data with poor response. Adjustment of data series according to new joint questionnaire under preparation. | 1995 | To be published in 1995 |
| **STEEL** | | | |
| Annual Bulletin of Steel Statistics for Europe | Contents reviewed. Reduction in number of pages. Lay-out will be further improved when a new PC system is introduced, probably during 1994 | 1994 | Still to be published |
| Statistics of World Trade in Steel | Review of publication and data collection procedure. Now only countries not in the COMTRADE database get questionnaire. New PC system has improved data presentation and legibility. | 1993 | E/F/R.93. II.E.34 |

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|---|---|---|---|
| Iron and Steel Scrap | Bi-annual publication. Fifth updating in 1991 had an improved presentation with several short texts.<br>The sixth updating of the Iron and Steel Scrap which should have taken place in 1993 was replaced by special study on the Impacts and developments in the recovery and preparation of scrap metal on the development of the world iron and steel industry. | 1991<br><br>1993 | E.91.II.E.37<br><br>E.93.II.E.28 |
| The Steel Market | More analytical than statistical. Last edition had 80 pages of text and an improved presentation. | 1993 | E.93.II.E.30 |
| **ENGINEERING** | | | |
| Bulletin of Statistics on World Trade in Engineering Products | Discontinued | 1992 | E/F/R.92.II.E.7 (Last issue) |
| Annual Review of Engineering Industries and Automation - Vols.I and II | Substituted by new single volume publication: World Engineering Industries and Automation. Performance and Prospects 1992-94. | 1994 | E.94.II.E.5 |
| **CHEMICALS** | | | |
| Annual Bulletin of Trade in Chemical Products | Temporarily discontinued, may be published in 1994. | 1991 | E/F/R.91.II.E.28 (Last issue) |
| Annual Review of the Chemical Industry | Renamed The Chemical Industry in 1992- Annual Review. Production and Trade Statistics 1989-1991. The textual part has been extended and includes graphs. The statistical part has been improved through a condensing of the tables. Further rationalization will be implemented in the future. | 1993 | E.93.II.E.27 |

| TIMBER AND FOREST PRODUCTS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Annual Timber Bulletin. Vol XLIII. No. 2 - Survey of the structure and capacity of the wood-based panels industries | Completely reviewed by expert. The 1994 version will contain a more comprehensive analysis of the survey results. The new publication will be part of the "Geneva Forest and Forest Product Study Series" (GFFPSS). | 1994 | ISSN 0259-4323 |
| Annual Timber Bulletin. Vol XLIII. No. 3 - Monthly Prices for Forest Products | Overhauled by expert and in the future will contain price information previously published in No. 7 in the old series. Will be published in 1994 in a new format. | 1994 | Timber Bulletin V.XLVII (1994) No.1 |
| Annual Timber Bulletin. Vol XLIII. No. 4 - Forest product statistics 1985-89 | Completely reformed, including contents and format. Information previously appearing in another publication ( No. 9 in the old series of Forest product statistics) has been included. | 1994 | Timber Bulletin V.XLVII (1994) No.2 |
| Annual Timber Bulletin. Vol XLIII. No. 5 - Annual Forest Products - Market Review 1989-90. | Reviewed and published in a more user-friendly format. New chapter added on changing sources of wood supply. | 1994 | Timber Bulletin V.XLVII (1994) No.3 |
| Annual Timber Bulletin. Vol XLIII. No. 6 - Forest product trade flows 1989-90. | Completely reviewed. UN COMTRADE data are now used rather than questionnaires and data are shown in both value and volume flows. | 1994 | Timber Bulletin V.XLVII (1994) No.5 |

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|---|---|---|---|
| Annual Timber Bulletin. Vol XLIII. No. 7 - Monthly prices for forest products. | Combined with No. 3 in the old series on Monthly prices. The continuation of this collection in the future will be depend on a study currently undertaken by an expert. | 1994 | Discontinued as a separate bulletin |
| Annual Timber Bulletin. Vol XLIII. No. 8 - Forest product markets in 1990 and prospects for 1991. | No major changes were recommended, only format changes were made to improve readability. | 1994 | Timber Bulletin V.XLVII (1994) No.6 |
| Annual Timber Bulletin. Vol XLIII. No. 9 - Forest product statistics 1985-June 1990. | Combined with No. 4 in the old series on Forest product statistics. | 1994 | Discontinued as a separate bulletin |
| Conversion Factors for Forest Products 1987. | The responses to the 1993 survey are currently being analyzed. When published some changes in presentation and format will be made. | 1994 | Timber Bulletin V.XLVII (1994) No.6 |
| Forest Fire Statistics 1985 -1988 | Changes in format and layout have greatly improved its reader-friendliness. Will in 1994 become part of the Timber Bulletin Series to ensure that it gets a wider distribution. | 1994 | Timber Bulletin V.XLVII (1994) No.5 |
| **Agriculture** | | | |

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|---|---|---|---|
| Annual Agricultural Review for Europe. Vol. 1 - General Review | Discontinued | 1993 | Last issue in 1992 ECE/AGRI/ 120, Vol.I |
| Annual Agricultural Review for Europe. Vol. 2 - Agricultural Trade | Now published as Vol.1. Due to post vacancies the 1993 publication was limited to statistical data. Will be further reviewed by the Committee on Agriculture in May 1994. | 1993 | ECE/AGRI/ 123, Vol.1 |
| Annual Agricultural Review for Europe. Vol. 3 - The Grain Market | Now published as Vol.2. After 1994, the bulletin will be discontinued as an annual publication and will only appear on an ad hoc basis with occasional economic studies on grain. | 1994 | ECE/AGRI/ 125, Vol.II |
| Annual Agricultural Review for Europe. Vol. 4 - The Livestock and Meat Market | Now published as Vol.3. Otherwise no change. | 1994 | Still to be published |
| Annual Agricultural Review for Europe. Vol. 5 - The Milk and Dairy product Market | Now published as Vol.4. Otherwise no change. | 1994 | Still to be published |
| Annual Agricultural Review for Europe. Vol. 6 - The Egg Market | Discontinued. | | |

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|---|---|---|---|
| Annual Prices of Agricultural Products and Selected Inputs in Europe and North America | Substantial improvements resulting from a revised questionnaire, with the introduction of analytical texts and with a focus on transition countries. | 1994 | ECE/AGRI/ 126 |
| Output and Inputs in Agriculture of Countries in the ECE Region | Recommended to be cancelled, decision will be taken by the Committee on Agriculture in May 1994. | 1990 | Last issue in 1990 ECE/AGRI/ 108 |
| **SOCIAL STATISTICS** | | | |
| Annual Bulletin of Housing and Building Statistics for Europe 1980, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989- Vol.XXXIII - 1991 | Substantial changes to the bulletin were approved by the Conference and the Committee on Human Settlements in 1993, among the planned main changes are the introduction of analytical texts into the bulletin, effective with the 1994 issue, the use of graphs and charts and restructuring the contents of the bulletin. | 1994 | Still to be published |

| **ENVIRONMENT** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CES. Statistical Standards and Studies - Environment Statistics in Europe and North America. An Experimental Compendium. 1987 | A second and much larger compendium focusing on the relationship between agriculture and the environment- was published in 1992: The Environment in Europe and North America. A third one is currently under preparation and due to be published in 1995. Each issue focuses on a different topic and is presented differently. | 1992 | E.92.II. E.14 |
| Strategies and Policies for Air Pollution Abatement - 1990 Review. 1991 | The reviews take place every four year. The current 1994 review is under preparation. No major change is planned in the publication. | 1995 | To be published in 1995 |
| Air Pollution Studies No. 7 - Assessment of long-range Transboundary Air Pollution. 1991 | Annual publicatoin in a series called "Air Pollution Studies". Each issue treats a different aspect of air pollution. The studies are more analytical than statistical. The ninth volume in the series was published in 1993. | 1993 | ECE/EB.AI R/34 |
| Water Use and Water Pollution Control: Trends, policies, prospects. 1989 | One-time study | Ad hoc | |